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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1956



Council Offices,
BUDLEIGH SALTERTON.



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BUDLEIGH SALTERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Budleigh Salterton.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December 1956, which includes a section kindly supplied by the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

In general the health of the people resident in the Urban district has been satisfactory, although the incidence of infectious diseases was higher this year than last; the increase being chiefly in respect of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough.

I am pleased to report again that there has been no case of Diphtheria in the district; the importance of all children being immunised against Diphtheria before the age of one year is once again stressed, as it is only by maintaining a high percentage of immunised children in the country that we can prevent a return of this disease.

From a study of the statistics of the area, it will be noted that the number of births increased from 33 in 1955 to 37 in 1956 and the number of deaths decreased from 74 in 1955 to 70 in 1956. The infant mortality rate is 27.0 as against 30.3 for 1955.

I should again like to thank all members of the Council and the staff for their help, co-operation and support given to me during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L.G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

L.G. ANDERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Public Health Inspector, Surveyor and Water Engineer

MR. A.E. PARRY, C.R.San.I., M.I.Mun.E.,
M.Inst.R.A., A.I.I.C.E.I., A.I.W.E., M.I.San.E.

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,018
Resident Population (mid-year 1956)	
as estimated by the Registrar General	3,860
Rateable value as at the 1st April 1957.	£78,344
Product of a penny rate (1st April 1957)	£311
Number of inhabited houses (1st April 1957)	1,473

2. VITAL STATISTICS(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	18	33
Illegitimate	4	-	4
Total	19	18	37

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	9.6
Standardised birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.4
Live birth rate per 1,000 civilian population England and Wales.	15.7

(b) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	26.3
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births England & Wales.	23.0

(c) Deaths

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	33	37	70
Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.			18.1
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated population			9.9
Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales			11.7
Death from maternal causes			Nil.

(d) Infant Mortality

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	-	1

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births 27.0
 Infant mortality per 1,000 live births England & Wales 23.8

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE

During 1956, 19 male and 18 female, total of 37 infants were born, which is 4 more than last year. The standardised birth rate increased from 11.7 in 1955 to 12.4 in 1956.

The following table shows the live birth rate during the last 10 years:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Budleigh Salterton	15.4	10.8	11.4	13.5	10.6	10.8	10.0	8.6	8.5	9.6
Standard- ised	-	-	-	15.8	12.6	12.9	12.0	11.8	11.7	12.4
England & Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE

Of the 37 infants born during 1956, 4 were illegitimate.

The illegitimate birth rate for the last 10 years is as follows: - (Rate per 1,000 total live births).

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
17.6	125.0	23.2	60.0	25.0	50.0	26.0	78.0	30.3	108.1

5. STILL BIRTHS

There was one stillbirth during the year - a male.

6. DEATHS

Of the whole population residing in the urban district, 70 died (33 males and 37 females), which represents a corrected death rate of 18.1 but which when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made represents a "Standardised" death rate of 9.9. This rate is lower than that of England & Wales as a whole (11.7).

The following table shows the "Corrected" and "Standardised" death rates for Budleigh Salterton urban district for the last 10 years:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Corrected	20.8	16.5	21.4	19.2	20.8	17.2	18.5	22.5	19.1	18.1
Standardised	-	-	12.0	10.6	11.7	9.6	10.3	11.2	9.7	9.9
England & Wales	12.0	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7

(a) Causes of Death

The following table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General.)

	Males	Females	Total
Cancer			
Malignant neoplasm stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm lungs and bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm other sites	3	4	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
Tuberculosis respiratory	1	-	1
Coronary disease, angina	11	4	15
Hypertension with heart disease (high blood pressure)	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	6	7	13
Diabetes	-	-	-
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	2	10	12
Influenza	2	1	3
Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Total	33	37	70

As in the preceding year the most prevalent causes of death were diseases of the heart; 28 cases (40%), Cancer caused 13 deaths (18.6%) and vascular lesions of the nervous system (cerebral haemorrhage, thrombosis etc.,) caused 12 deaths (17.1%).

One case of accidental death was recorded, a male aged 78 years who died from Broncho Pneumonia due to a fracture of the pelvis following a fall.

I am pleased to report that once again there have been no cases of deaths from motor vehicle accidents and that no cases of Suicide have been recorded this year.

(b) Age at death

The average age at death during 1956 was 71.1 and is below that for the previous year. The following table shows the average age at death during the last 7 years:-

		1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Males		70.0	75.6	73.0	73.0	72.5	73.1	67.5
Females		74.0	74.7	74.4	77.3	77.6	77.9	74.4
Both Sexes		72.2	75.1	73.7	74.4	74.9	75.2	71.1
England & Wales	M		66.5	65.9	57.1	67.3	67.6	67.52
	F		71.2	70.9	72.3	72.4	73.1	72.9
†								

† Expectation of Life On the basis of the death-rates for the year 1955, the expectation of life of a boy at birth is 67.52 and of a girl 72.9. This compares with 67.58 and 73.05 respectively, on the basis of the 1954 death-rates, and with 48.43 and 52.38 on the basis of the death rates for 1901-1910.

	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	1	-	1	1.42
1 and under 2	-	-	-	-
2 +	-	-	-	-
5 +	-	-	-	-
10 +	-	-	-	-
20 +	1	-	1	1.42
30 +	-	-	-	-
40 +	2	1	3	4.28
50 +	1	6	7	10.0
60 +	10	4	14	20.0
70 +	13	10	23	32.9
80 +	4	14	18	25.7
90 - 100	1	2	3	4.28
All ages	33	37	70	

7. INFANT MORTALITY

Budleigh Salterton - 1 death, rate of 27.0
 England & Wales rate of 23.8

The cause of death in this case was Birth Injuries

It is to be noted that the infant mortality rate for England & Wales was the lowest on record.

8. DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES - Nil.9. CANCER

During 1956, 13 cases of deaths from Cancer were recorded. The various parts of the body affected are shown in the following table:-

	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	1	-	1
Lungs and bronchus	2	-	2
Breast	-	3	3
Uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	4	7
Total	6	7	13

The incidence of deaths from cancer during the last 10 years is as follows:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Males	10	4	7	5	6	5	4	4	8	6
Females	8	8	7	9	6	7	9	13	9	7
Total	18	12	14	14	12	12	13	17	17	13
Rate per 1,000 resident population	4.9	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.18	3.2	3.44	3.43	4.4	3.4

10. INFECTIOUS DISEASES(a) Measles

Following 1955 when there were only 5 cases of Measles, there were 149 cases notified in 1956, but these were of a mild nature.

(b) Diphtheria

I am pleased to report that for the 10th consecutive year there has been no case of Diphtheria in the district.

The table below shows the incidence of the various notifiable infectious diseases for the year 1956:-

	No. of cases notified	Deaths
Measles	95	-
Whooping Cough	42	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-
Pneumonia	10	-
Food Poisoning	-	-
Total	149	-

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 yr.	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	total
Measles	3	8	12	8	11	51	2	-	-	-	-	-	95
Whooping cough	5	6	-	6	6	18	-	1	-	-	-	-	42
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	10
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
All causes	10	14	12	14	17	71	2	1	-	1	4	3	149

The seasonal incidence of Measles in Budleigh Salterton and England & Wales for 1956 was as follows:-

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Budleigh Salterton	3	1	-	6	58	37	10	-	-	-	-	-
	4			101			10			-		
England & Wales	35,186			39,514			29,241			56,518		

Below is tabulated the incidence (numbers notified) of various infectious diseases during the last 10 years:-

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Measles	22	-	131	7	16	13	177	6	5	95
Whooping Cough	26	3	25	19	26	1	41	8	11	42
Scarlet Fever	-	2	1	4	-	1	-	1	1	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	2	2	5	1	-	1	1	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	10	7	1	-	4	24	10
Typhoid Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

11. TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1956, 3 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified: 1 female and 2 male. The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease, and deaths from Tuberculosis, notified during 1956 were as follows:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1								
1-								
5-								
15-	1							
25-								
35-		1						
45-								
55-								
65-	1							
All ages	2	1	-	-				
	3				Nil.			

The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	13	14	27
Non-Pulmonary	5	13	18
Total	18	27	45

12. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

The Health Services provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act as applicable to your district are briefly set out below:-

PART II

(a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES.

(i) General

The Urban District is well served by the Budleigh Salterton Cottage Hospital (Tel.No: Budleigh Salterton 20) where there is accommodation for:-

Male	8 beds
Female	8 beds
Private Wards	3 beds
Nursery	2 beds and 1 cot.

In addition to the above, use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East, Exeter.
(Tel.No: Exeter 72261) - 320 beds (5 for premature babies).
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckerell Bore, Exeter.
(Tel.No: Exeter 54217) - 116 beds.
3. Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth.
(Tel.No: Exmouth 4381) - 45 beds.
4. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter.
(Tel.No: Exeter 73183) - 56 beds.

(ii) Maternity

1. Poltimore Nursing Home - 7 beds.
2. Redhills Hospital, St. Thomas, Exeter - 10 beds.
3. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for complicated or difficult cases.

(iii) Isolation

Cases of Infectious diseases are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, (Tel.No: Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I should like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by Dr. Boyd the Resident Physician, and Staff of the Hospital.

(iv) Smallpox

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need. (Tel.No: Stoke Canon 207).

The policy regarding the arrangements for the diagnosis of Smallpox as stated in the Annual Report for 1955 was continued throughout 1956, but at the time of writing a new list of Consultants has been circularised to all Medical Officers in the country and so far as this area is concerned the Consultant who will be called upon to assist in the diagnosis is:-

Dr. E.J.G. Wallace,
Health Centre,
Westham Road,
WEYMOUTH.

Tel.No: Office

Weymouth 1645 and 16

Home

Weymouth 1513.

and as in previous years, arrangements have been made to call upon:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	
		<u>By Day</u>	<u>By Night</u>
Dr.C. Seward	20, West Southernhay, Exeter.	Exeter 72110	Exmouth 4120
Dr.W.J.Laird	City Hospital, Exeter	Exeter 72671 (office)	Exeter 73116 (Home).
Dr.A.H.G.Down	1, The Mede, Whipton Exeter.	Exeter 73805	Exeter 67121

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel.No: Exeter 54959), under the direction of Dr.B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following Centre:

<u>EXETER</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.	Mon. 7 - 8 p.m. Fri. 2 - 3 p.m.	Mon. 6 - 7 p.m. Fri. 3 - 4 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

As from the 5th July, 1948, the Local Health Authority became responsible for the ambulance services in the area, and at their request the Exmouth Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade agreed to act as their agents and continue the service commenced in 1936.

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel.NO: Exmouth 2857).

In the district served, the ambulances have carried 1,943 patients in 1956 and have attended 148 street accidents and 41 home accidents. The total mileage covered during the year has been 27,330.

PART III

(e) CARE OF MOTHERS & YOUNG CHILDREN.

A Health Visitor is assigned to this district: Mrs. T.M. Barry, 4, Rock Mansions, Budleigh Salterton (Tel.No: Budleigh Salterton 625). The Medical Officer who attends the Infant Welfare Centre is Dr. Dawe of Budleigh Salterton.

The Centres are held at The Church Institute, Budleigh Salterton, on the first and third Wednesdays in each month from 2.0 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

During 1956 the following attendances were made:-

Total No.of sessions held.	Total No.of attendances of Mothers.	Total No.of babies attending.	Total No.of toddlers attending.
23	498 (of which 31 were first attendances).	317 (of which 31 were first attendances.)	319 (of which 3 were first attendances.)

(f) MATERNITY

There is one District Nurse Midwife in this district, Nurse Powlesland, ~~Burnside~~ Halse Hill Lane, Budleigh Salterton, (Tel.No: Budleigh Salterton 274). Nurse Bolt of The Bungalow, Yettington, (Tel.No: Colaton Raleigh 256) acts as relief in the absence of Nurse Powlesland. Mrs. E. Kemp, of 16, Cliff Road, Budleigh Salterton, (Tel.No: Budleigh Salterton 483) also practises as an independent midwife.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest maternity unit, in this case the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Exeter where there are 5 cots available.

(h) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

During 1956, 42 children received initial Diphtheria immunisation and 87 children were given boosting doses.

It should be noted that the County Council's Scheme includes immunisation against Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis. The present practice is to offer vaccination against Smallpox at the age of 3 months, and to give the three injections of the combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough immunisations at 4, 5 and 6 months of age. Boosting doses are still required against Diphtheria at the ages of 5 years and 10 years.

13.

Report of the Surveyor and
Public Health Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY

- (a) The total quantity of water pumped during the year 1956 was 71,670,600 gallons, which was 177,200 gallons less than in 1955.
- (b) During the year it was found that the Sherbrook reservoir of 240,000 gallons capacity was losing a minimum average quantity of 3,000 gallons of water per day.

This reservoir is over 70 years old and is of mass brick construction, with barrel roofs supported on arches, pillars and pilasters. The Council has decided to line the entire inner surfaces of the reservoir with reinforced gunite.

- (c) All domestic properties are connected to the main water supply. During the year, 5 new properties were connected and 2 other properties were divided into 4 making a total of 7 new water connections.
- (d) Samples of raw and chlorinated water are submitted every week for bacteriological examination, and the results are highly satisfactory.

14.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year, 1,711 baits were laid on 44 premises resulting in 399 rats killed. One food shop and one hotel employ their own specialist firms of rat catchers.

15.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year 5 new properties were connected to the main sewer, and 14 drains were tested. All sewage is discharged into the sea between one hour after high water and one hour before low water, a man being employed specially to operate the tank sewer outlet valves day and night.

Sewage is also received from the St. Thomas Rural area at Knowle Village. The sewer outfall is at Otter Head, which is in the St. Thomas Rural District.

The only part of the town without sewerage facilities is in Kersbrook Valley on the northern outskirts, and a scheme is being prepared whereby sewage from the small number of properties in this valley would be pumped into main sewerage system at Granary Lane.

16.

HOUSE REFUSE

House refuse is collected once weekly.

Large hotels are dealt with twice weekly. Trade refuse is also collected and a special charge is made.

The controlled tip at South Road has been well maintained, a man being employed full-time for this purpose.

A small income is received from the sale of waste paper, rags and scrap metal.



17. HOUSING

During the year, 5 new houses have been built, 1 house has been divided in 2 and another house has been divided into 2 flats - all by private enterprise.

The Council's general housing programme was completed in 1955, and the number of council houses and flats on the four estates at Bedlands, Moormead, Meadow Road and Brook Road now totals 232.

The cost of maintaining these estates increases every year and the Council is gradually enlarging its labour force to deal with repairs. 195 defects were dealt with during the year.

18. REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

9 of the houses submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in accordance with Section 1 and 9 of the Act have been demolished. Some others are awaiting demolition and tenants have been found alternative accommodation. The Council has decided to build a block of 6 one-bedroomed bungalows to accommodate elderly occupants of unfit houses.

19. FOOD

(i) The number and types of food premises in the Urban District are as follows:-

Bakers	2
Butchers	4
Cafes, restaurants, etc.	12
Confectioners	3
Dairymen	3
Fish merchants	5
Greengrocers, etc.	4
Grocers	10
Hotels and Guest Houses	13

56

In addition to the above, bread vans and wholesale meat vans come in from other districts, and there is one mobile fish and chip van.

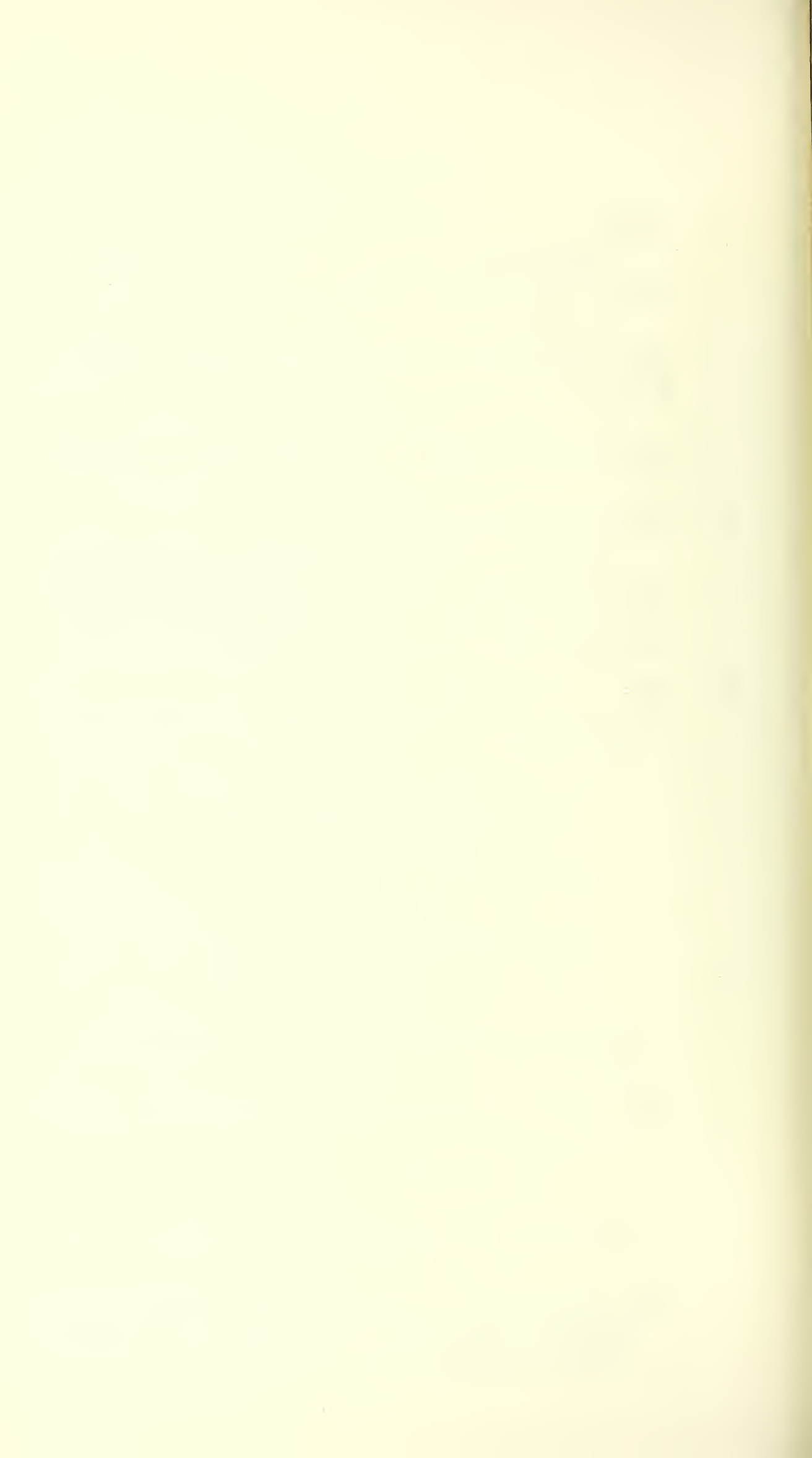
(ii) Number of food premises registered under (a) Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 -

Ice Cream	12
Manufactured foods	3

(b) the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954 -

Dairies	4
---------	---

(iii) During the year, 41 visits were made to registered premises. Traders were advised where it was necessary to provide washing facilities, hard-working tops, etc., with a view to promoting cleanliness in food handling and production.



- (iv) No special educational activity has been carried out, but a very valuable Catering Trades Exhibition was staged at Torquay by the South Western Electricity Board, whereat a comprehensive range of plant machinery, gadgets, tables, etc., designed with a view to promoting clean food production, was demonstrated to local tradespeople and others.
- (v) Condemned food is disposed of by burial at the Council's controlled tip, where a man is on duty during all working hours.
- (vi) No special stock of food has had to be condemned. Miscellaneous quantities of food condemned during the year are as follows:-

246	lbs.	English beef
46 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.	Offal
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.	Bacon
250 $\frac{1}{8}$	lbs.	tinned meat
28	lbs.	currants
27	lbs.	dried fruit
36		Foussins
705	tins and	
102	packets of	other foods.

(vii) Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1947-52.

There are no premises in the Urban District where ice cream is manufactured.

All premises are retail establishments selling pre-packed ice cream obtained from one or other of five well known manufacturers whose factories are situate in other districts. Ice Cream samples are taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Exeter for examination under the methylene blue keeping test.

(viii) Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-56

Consequent upon the coming into operation of the above regulations, the occupiers of all food premises and owners of delivery vans were notified of the provisions relating to cleanliness, conveniences, water supply, wash-basins, sinks, temperature control, first-aid materials, certain ailments and other matters.

Advice was offered to all who needed it and as a result, various improvements have been carried out including provision of hot water, impervious working taps, "wash you hands" notices, and the provision of washing facilities in bread vans.

20. FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspection for purposes of Provision as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of	
			Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	28	-	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	10	28	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found - N I L.

